

ORIGINAL

POLREP 1
VENCO COKE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
ROUTE 2 SOUTH
MOUNDSVILLE, MARSHALL COUNTY, WV 26041
EVENT: EMERGENCY RESPONSE - COKE FIRE, ADJACENT TO LDB OF OHIO RIVER, APPROXIMATE
MP-112
ATTN: RRC

I. SITUATION (1600 HRS, WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2004)

- A. AT APPROXIMATELY 1645 HOURS, 2/10/04, EPA REGION III, WHEELING OFFICE, WAS NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER OF AN ON-GOING FIRE OF GREEN PETROLEUM COKE AT THE VENCO FACILITY (OWNED BY CONOCO PHILLIPS) ALONG RT. 2 SOUTH OF MOUNDSVILLE, WV. THE NRC TOOK THE REPORT AT 1615 HOURS ON 2/10/04. ACCORDING TO THE NRC REPORT (NRC INCIDENT 712972), THE REPORTING PARTY, MS. ROSALYN MURZYN, REPORTED A GREEN PETROLEUM COKE (SOLID) CATCHING ON FIRE DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. THE REPORT STATES THAT THE FIRE WAS FIRST DETECTED AT 0800 HOURS, 2/9/04.
- B. AT 1650 HOURS, REGION 3 DUTY OFFICER PASSED THIS INFORMATION ON TO RESPONSE OSC DENNIS MATLOCK WHO DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE.
- C. AT 1705 HOURS START WAS MOBILIZED TO THE SITE LOCATION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY.
- D. PERSONNEL ON SCENE: EPA - 1, START-1
- E. WEATHER ON SCENE: OVERCAST, WINDS MODERATE AND VARIABLE, TEMPS IN THE LOW 30'S.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

- A. AT 1645 AND 1705 HOURS RESPECTFULLY, ONE EPA OSC AND ONE START MOBILIZED TO THE VENCO FACILITY ARRIVING ON SITE AT APPROXIMATELY 1750 HOURS AND MET WITH MS. ROSALYN MURZYN, ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR, AND MR. RON BELL, SAFETY COORDINATOR FOR THE FACILITY. THE OSC AND START QUESTIONED MS. MURZYN ABOUT THE INCIDENT AS TO WHEN IT STARTED, HOW IT MAY HAVE STARTED, THEIR INTENDED ACTIONS TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE, IF AIR MONITORING IS TAKING PLACE, AND OBTAINED AN MSDS ON THE PRODUCT. ACCORDING TO MS. MURZYN, IT IS UNKNOWN AS TO WHEN THE FIRE MAY HAVE BEGUN (IT COULD HAVE BEEN A WEEK AGO) OR AS TO IT'S ORIGIN. SHE STATED THAT IT MAY HAVE SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTED DUE TO TEMPERATURES, MOISTURE CONTENT, AND PARTICULATE SIZE. THE COMPANY PLANS TO PULL OUT THE REMAINING UNAFFECTED PART OF THE PILE WITH A FRONT LOADER, THEN USE WATER CANNONS TO DIRECT WATER SPRAY AT SMALL PORTIONS OF THE FIRE, COOLING IT UNTIL IT BECOMES A SOLID, THEN REMOVE IT FOR FURTHER DISPOSAL. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IT MAY TAKE 2-3 WEEKS TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE. THE FACILITY BELIEVES IT MAY BEGIN THE FIRE FIGHTING OPERATION AS EARLY AS THE AFTERNOON OF 2/11. MS. MURZYN STATED THE INCIDENT WAS NOT CALLED IN EARLIER TO THE NRC AS THEY WERE PERFORMING CALCULATIONS TO DETERMINE IF THEY MAY HAVE EXCEEDED THE RQ'S FOR EITHER NO2 OR SOX.
- B. AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS THE OSC AND START MEMBER WERE ESCORTED TO THE BURNING PILE OF PETROLEUM-COKE. THE PILE IS APPROXIMATELY 50' HIGH AND 120' ACROSS THE BASE. THE COMPANY ESTIMATES THE VOLUME TO BE AROUND 5,000 TONS OF PETROLEUM-COKE PRODUCT. EXPOSED FIRE CAN BE NOTED IN SEVERAL AREAS ON THE SURFACE OF THE PILE WITH THE LARGEST NOTED AREA APPROXIMATELY COVERING 200 SQUARE FEET. UPON QUESTIONING OTHER FACILITY PERSONNEL, THE FIRE MAY HAVE BEEN FIRST DETECTED AS EARLY AS THE EVENING OF 2/6. COMPANY PERSONNEL WERE OBSERVED ACTIVELY AIR MONITORING FOR CO AND SO2 WITH A TMX 412. THEY HAD BEGUN

AIR MONITORING AT 0800 ON 2/10, DOING SO AT 2-HOUR INTERVALS AND INTEND TO KEEP THIS PROCESS UP. A COMPANY SAFETY SPECIALIST PROVIDED THE EPA WITH COPIES OF THE AIR MONITORING READINGS IT HAD RECORDED TO DATE. NONE OF THE READINGS EXCEEDED THE TLVS FOR CO OR SO₂. THE FIRE WAS NOTED TO BE A VERY CLEAN BURN WITH NO VISIBLE BLACK SMOKE COMING OFF THE FIRE AREA. ONLY STEAM LIKE, WHITE SMOKE, WAS NOTED COMING OFF THE PILE. IT APPEARS VERY MUCH LIKE A CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE BURN IN A HOME BBQ PIT BUT ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE. AT APPROXIMATELY 1930 HOURS, THE OSC AND START DEPARTED THE FACILITY.

- C. AT 1430 HOURS, 2/11, START SPOKE BY TELEPHONE WITH MS. MURZYN. SHE CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD BEGUN THE EXTINGUISHING OPERATION TODAY. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POTENTIAL LIQUID RUNOFF FROM THE OPERATION, AND IF OILY RESIDUE MAY BE PRESENT, MS. MURZYN ASSURED START THAT ALL STORM WATER FROM THE FACILITY IS CAPTURED ON SITE AND PROCESSED THROUGH A SORT OF "CARBON-ACTIVATION FILTER SYSTEM" WHEREIN THEY UTILIZE FOUR RAILROAD CARS, LOADED WITH VARYING SIZED COKE, TO FILTER THE WATER THROUGH PRIOR TO DISCHARGE TO THE OHIO RIVER. SHE STATES THAT THE DISCHARGED PRODUCT DOES NOT EXCEED THEIR NPDES PERMIT ALLOWANCES AND DOES NOT INCLUDE OILY SHEEN.
- D. ON WEDNESDAY, THE OSC AGAIN MOBED TO THE SITE TO OBSERVE THE FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS. THE FIRE APPEARED TO BE THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS EVENING. PLANT WORKERS HAD ENSURED THERE WAS SEPARATION FROM ADJACENT PILES OF UNAFFECTED COKE. ALL RUNOFF WATER FROM THE WATER HOSES WAS BEING CONTAINED.

III. FUTURE PLANS

- A. IN COORDINATION WITH THE OSC, START INTENDS TO VISIT THE FACILITY ON THE A.M. OF 2/12 TO OBSERVE THE FIRE CONTROL OPERATIONS, OBTAIN A COPY OF THEIR NPDES PERMIT, INSPECT THEIR STORM-WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, AND OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE INCIDENT WITH THE PERMISSION OF PLANT MANAGEMENT. THE FACILITY HAS BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH ALL REQUESTS ON BEHALF OF THE EPA TO DATE.
- B. OSC AND START WILL CONTINUE TO EVALUATE THE FACILITY RESPONSE, DOCUMENTING THE PROCESS, UNTIL THE FIRE IS FULLY EXTINGUISHED. AIR MONITORING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY START AS NECESSARY.

DENNIS MATLOCK, OSC
US EPA REGION III
WHEELING, WV

POLREP 2
VENCO COKE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
ROUTE 2 SOUTH
MOUNDSVILLE, MARSHALL COUNTY, WV 26041
EVENT: EMERGENCY RESPONSE - COKE FIRE, ADJACENT TO LDB OF OHIO RIVER, APPROXIMATE
MP-112
ATTN: RRC

- I. SITUATION (1600 HRS, THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2004)
 - A. SEE POLREP 1 FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.
 - B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE: EPA-1, START-1
 - C. WEATHER ON SCENE: OVERCAST, WINDS LIGHT AND VARIABLE, TEMPS IN THE LOW 30'S.
- II. ACTIONS TAKEN
 - A. AT 0900 ONE START MEMBER MOBILIZED TO THE FACILITY AND MET WITH MS. ROSALYN MURZYN, THE FACILITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR. MS. MURZYN PROVIDED START WITH A COPY OF THEIR CURRENT NPDES PERMIT AND ALLOWED START TO EXAMINE THEIR QUARTERLY SAMPLING RESULTS OVER THE PAST TWO COMPLETE YEARS. NO SAMPLING RESULTS EXCEEDED THEIR PERMIT ALLOWANCES. IN ADDITION, MS. MURZYN PROVIDED START WITH AN UPDATED VERSION OF THEIR ON-GOING AIR MONITORING EFFORTS IN AND AROUND THE BURN PILE. ALL RECORDINGS (CO & SO2) NOTED SINCE 1945 HOURS ON 2/10 ARE WELL BELOW ACTION LEVELS.
 - B. AT APPROXIMATELY 0920 MS. MURZYN ESCORTED THE START MEMBER TO THEIR ON-SITE STORM WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT THE NORTHWEST AREA OF THEIR PROPERTY. THE SYSTEM CONSIST OF TWO LARGE COLLECTION BASINS AND FOUR OPEN RAILROAD CARS WHERE THEY PUMP THE WATER FROM THE COLLECTION BASINS TO THE TOP OF THE CARS WHICH ARE LOADED WITH RAW PETROLEUM-COKE. AFTER THE WATER IS FILTERED THROUGH THE RAILCARS, THE EFFLUENT IS DISCHARGED TO THE OHIO RIVER THROUGH THEIR OUTFALL NUMBER 003. SAMPLING OF THIS EFFLUENT IS CONDUCTED ON A ROUTINE BASIS BY FACILITY PERSONNEL. START ALSO EXAMINED THE OUTFALL ITSELF WHEREIN IT FLOWS TO THE OHIO RIVER AT APPROXIMATELY MP-111.8. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF SHEEN PRESENT.
 - C. START ALSO WITNESSED THE FACILITIES ON-GOING FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS ON THE SUBJECT COKE PILE. MUCH OF THE PILE THAT WAS NOT BURNING HAS BEEN REMOVED BY FRONT LOADERS. THE FACILITY HAS SET UP A 2.5 INCH FIRE HOSE UNMANNED MONITOR CONTINUOUSLY SPRAYING A STREAM FLOW ONTO THE PILE THEREBY COOLING THE HOT SPOTS. START WAS UNABLE TO DETECT ANY EVIDENCE OF ACTIVE FIRE ON THE SURFACE AREAS THAT HAD BEEN EVIDENT ON THE EVENING OF 2/10. NO OBSERVABLE SMOKE WAS NOTED COMING OFF THE PILE BUT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF STEAM (WHITE SMOKE) WAS NOTED FROM MANY LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PILE. IT IS ESTIMATED THE OVERALL PILE SIZE HAS BEEN REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 30% SINCE 2/10. MS. MURZYN COLLECTED SEVERAL DIGITAL PHOTOS OF THE FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS AND WILL PROVIDE THEM TO START VIA E-MAIL. NO OUTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED ON THE PROPERTY.
- III. FUTURE PLANS
 - A. THE EPA AND START WILL COORDINATE TO PROVIDE NEAR DAILY VISITS TO THE FACILITY TO NOTE PROGRESS ON THE FIRE FIGHTING. THE FACILITY CONTINUES TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH ALL REQUESTS ON BEHALF OF THE EPA TO DATE.
 - B. AIR MONITORING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY START TO COLLABORATE THE

ORIGINAL

FACILITIES READINGS UTILIZING A MULTI-WARN SENSOR.

DENNIS MATLOCK, OSC
US EPA REGION III
WHEELING, WV

ORIGINAL

POLREP 3 AND FINAL
VENCO COKE FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
ROUTE 2 SOUTH
MOUNDSVILLE, MARSHALL COUNTY, WV 26041
EVENT: EMERGENCY RESPONSE - COKE FIRE, ADJACENT TO LDB OF OHIO RIVER, APPROXIMATE
MP-112
ATTN: RRC

- I. SITUATION (1600 HRS, MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2004)
 - A. SEE POLREP 1 FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.
 - B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE: START-1
 - C. WEATHER ON SCENE: SUNNY, WINDS LIGHT TO MODERATE FROM THE SOUTH, TEMPS IN THE LOW 30'S.
- II. ACTIONS TAKEN
 - A. AT 0915, 2/13/04, ONE START MEMBER MOBILIZED TO THE FACILITY AND MET WITH MS. ROSALYN MURZYN, THE FACILITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR.
 - B. AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 MS. MURZYN ESCORTED THE START MEMBER TO THE FACILITIES ON-GOING FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS ON THE SUBJECT COKE PILE. THE FACILITY HAS SET UP TWO 2.5 INCH FIRE HOSES UTILIZING UNMANNED MONITORS THAT WERE CONTINUOUSLY SPRAYING A STREAM FLOW ONTO THE PILE THEREBY COOLING ANY REMAINING HOT SPOTS. AS STATED IN POLREP 2, NO OBSERVABLE SMOKE WAS NOTED COMING OFF THE PILE BUT ONLY STEAM (WHITE SMOKE) WAS STILL EVIDENT. IT IS ESTIMATED THE OVERALL PILE SIZE HAD BEEN REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 70-80% SINCE 2/10.
 - C. FACILITY CREWS WERE OBSERVED USING TWO LARGE FRONT-LOADERS TO PULL OFF THE COOLED PRODUCT AND RELOCATE IT ELSEWHERE ON THE FACILITY PROPERTY. MS. MURZYN STATED THAT THE OPERATION WAS GOING MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED AND SHE EXPECTED THE FIRE WOULD BE COMPLETELY OVER, AND THE PILE REMOVED BY 2/14 AT THE LATEST.
 - D. START AGAIN QUESTIONED MS. MURZYN ABOUT THE ORIGINAL PILE SIZE AND MORE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE PART ON FIRE. MS. MURZYN STATED THAT THE ORIGINAL PILE SIZE WAS APPROXIMATELY 12,000 TONS, OF WHICH ABOUT 5,000 TONS WERE "AT RISK" FROM THE FIRE. HOWEVER, THE FIRE ACTUALLY IMPACTED A MUCH LOWER NUMBER THAN WHAT WAS AT RISK. START ALSO CONDUCTED AIR MONITORING, UTILIZING A DRAEGER MULTI-WARN, FOR CO AND SO2 AND ZERO READINGS WERE NOTED FOR BOTH IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE PILE.
 - E. AT 1145, 2/16/04, START AGAIN CONTACTED MS. MURZYN, BY TELEPHONE, ASKING FOR AN UPDATE OF THE SITUATION. MS. MURZYN STATED THAT THE FIRE WAS OUT BY 1900 HOURS ON 2/13/04 AND THAT THEY WOULD BE DOING ROUGH CALCULATIONS TO DETERMINE APPROXIMATELY HOW MUCH SO2 AND NOX MAY HAVE BEEN EMITTED DURING THE FIRE. HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION WOULD NOT BE READILY AVAILABLE FOR AN UNDETERMINED TIME.
- III. FUTURE PLANS
 - A. NO FURTHER EPA INVOLVEMENT ANTICIPATED AS THE FIRE HAS BEEN FULLY EXTINGUISHED.

DENNIS MATLOCK, OSC
US EPA REGION III
WHEELING, WV